



# EUGENE BLM

## “ EYE TO THE FUTURE ”



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Planning and Project Focus

March 2002

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### A Note from the District Manager

This edition of the Eugene “Eye to the Future” is part of our continuing effort to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Eugene District.

It is our intent to increase awareness of BLM proposals, issues, activities and opportunities we think are important to the public. More importantly, we are seeking ideas, comments and participation from those who are, or may be affected by our management decisions.

Our District’s employees continue active involvement on several key issues including: Resource Management Plan (RMP) implementation; Resource Area Reconfiguration; Land Acquisition and Management at the West Eugene Wetlands; Wildfire Prevention and Planning; Invasive Plant (Weeds) Species Management and participation on Advisory Committees and Councils. As you read this edition, you will find descriptions of many different types of projects related to these key issues.

Thank you for your interest in BLM’s management of Public Lands. If you have any questions on information in this edition, do not hesitate to call upon us for clarification or explanation. Your input helps us to design and implement better projects that enhance the health of the land and meet the needs of our nation.

You are also invited to visit our web page at [www.edo.or.blm.gov](http://www.edo.or.blm.gov). Or E-Mail us at [or090mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:or090mb@or.blm.gov).

Julia Dougan, District Manager

## **EUGENE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**District Manager**  
**District Resource Management Advisor**  
**Assistant District Manager for Operations**  
**Assistant District Manager for Field Services**  
**McKenzie Resource Area Field Manager**  
**Coast Range/South Valley Field Manager**

**Julia Dougan**  
**Wayne Elliott**  
**Jack Hall**  
**Polly Elliott**  
**Emily Rice**  
**Steve Calish**

**District Phone Number 541-683-6600 or Toll Free 1-888-442-3061**

### **District-wide Projects**

**Project:** Eugene District Resource Area Reconfiguration

**Contact:** Julia Dougan (541-683-6600)

**Description:** The Eugene District plans to reconfigure from three to two Resource Areas. The new Areas will be divided east and west of Interstate 5. The official date for the boundary, staff and name change will be October 1, 2002.

**Project:** Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Resource Advisory Committee

**Contact:** Wayne Elliott (541-683-6989)

**Description:** The Eugene BLM Resource Advisory Committee, formed and chartered under the authority of this legislation, met on February 28 and March 14, 2002 and has made significant progress toward approving fiscal year 2002 projects. At the February meeting the committee was briefed on the purpose of this legislation and the responsibilities of the committee, the charter and received an overview of proposed FY 02 projects. At the March meeting the committee received more specifics on the projects and recommended for approval, under Title II of the Act, the following list of watershed restoration and road maintenance projects:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| *Leopold Creek Culverts       | *Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Channel Enhancement |
| *Scotch Broom Inventory       | *Juvenile Forest Work Team                          |
| *Lane County Forest Work Camp | *Hult Pond Road Culvert Replacement/Rocking         |
| *Goodpasture Culvert          | *Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Crossings           |
| *Abandoned Car Removal        |   |

The Resource Advisory Committee plans to meet again on June 13 and July 25, 2002. The purpose of these meetings will be to review and recommend for approval fiscal year 2003 projects.

**Please Note !** As per the legislation, projects can be submitted to the BLM by any interested individual or group. The Eugene District, BLM is very interested to hear from you if you have ideas for fiscal year 2003 “on-the-ground” projects that meet the purposes of this legislation. Project submission forms and the complete legislation can be seen at the Eugene District web site [www.edo.or.blm.gov](http://www.edo.or.blm.gov), or you can contact the Eugene District office at 541-683-6600, or Wayne Elliott, Designated Federal Official, at 683-6989.

### **District-wide Projects**

**Project:** Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Travis Tyrell Seed Orchard

**Contact:** Glenn Miller (541-683-6445)

**Description:**

The EIS will analyze risks for potential use of pesticides (herbicides, fungicides, fumigants) and fertilizers for use in the four BLM orchards located throughout the State of Oregon. The effort is expected to take about 18 months.

**Project:** Travis Tyrrell Cone Insect Control EA

**Contact:** Glenn Miller (541-683-6445).

**Description:**

The EA will be done in time to protect the 2003 cone crop on two Douglas-fir seed production units (total of 29 acres).

**Status:** *EA will be available for public comment this spring.*

**Project:** National Fire Plan

**Contact:** Nancy Ashlock (541-683-6667)

**Description:**

The Eugene District will undertake a variety of projects within and outside of the Wildland Urban interface this year. Those projects include: Slash treatments in Pre-commercial thinnings, pruning of ladder fuels helispot maintenance, wetland burning, planning in the Late Successional Reserve, environmental education, fire break construction, invasive plant control, and mowing for hazard reduction at the Tyrell Seed Orchard and Row River Trail. The treatments are part of the National Fire Plan approved by Congress after the severe fire season of 2000. Besides reducing fuel loads in and around communities at risk and restoring ecosystems.

**Project:** Invasive Weed Control

**Contact:** Nancy Wogen (541-683-6111)

**Description:**

The Eugene District is undertaking a number of project in the control of invasive weeds. These projects include: Eradication of weeds along roads by the County Correction Crew, a challenge/cost share project with the Institute for Applied Ecology on the false brome removal and re-seeding of disturbed areas with native seeds.

**Project:** West Eugene Wetlands

**Contact:** Doug Huntington (541-683-6415)

**Description:**

The BLM recently acquired a 46 acre parcel in the West Eugene Wetlands that forms a key link between the Willow Creek Natural Area - a 440 acre Nature Conservancy preserve south of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue - and government owned wetlands along Amazon Creek north of West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This latest land acquisition was completed in January with Land and Water Conservation Funds and contains property that formerly was home to the Eugene Speedway race track. The new property, now referred to as Camas Prairie, will eventually be restored to wetland habitat. The BLM and its partners now manage over 2000 acres of wetlands.

## **MCKENZIE RESOURCE AREA**

### **<1>Calapooya Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Jack Zwiesler (683-6497)

**Location:** T.14S., R.02W., Sections 28, 33 and 34; T.14S., R.01W., Sections 31 and 33; and T.15S., R.01W., Sections 1, 5 and 9.

**Project Description:**

The Calapooya timber Sale is a proposed commercial thinning of approximately 280 acres. It is estimated that up to 1.7 miles of temporary roads would be constructed and 5.5 miles of roads would be closed (decommissioned). Some treatment in the Riparian Reserves may occur.

**Status:** *The public comment period for this EA started March 6 and will end April 7.*

### **<2>Starks Creek Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Don Wilbur (683-6994)

**Location:** T.18 S., R.01 W., Sec. 15

**Project Description:**

You are encouraged to inquire about the proposed EA for Starks Creek Timber Sale. It includes commercially thinning about 200 acres of upland conifers and some density management thinning on about 65 acres of Riparian Reserve. Harvest systems to be evaluated would be ground based, cable and helicopter. Timber harvest volume is expected to be approximately 2.5 million board feet.

**Status:** *Work on this EA is currently in progress*

### **<3>Off Highway Trail Designation**

**Contact:** Liz Aleman (683-7576)

**Location:** Shotgun Creek Area

**Project Description:**

Signs will soon appear in the Shotgun Creek area designating 30 numbered trails and trail systems for use by off-highway vehicles. The trail signs will inform the public as to the type of authorized use and level of difficulty. Signs on the trails will keep folks on public land trails as well as inform users of approaching congested areas and road intersections. Key messages contained within the free map are: Explanation of the trail signs, respect for private property and consequences of trespassing, camping and fire safety, rider etiquette, operator responsibilities and protection of natural resource.

**Status:** *Signs are currently being placed on the trails and trail systems. The free maps will be available by May 15, 2002 at the Eugene District showing the trail locations.*

## COAST RANGE RESOURCE AREA

### Long Tom Watershed

#### <1> Bishops Hat Thinning Timber Sale

**Contact:** Graham Armstrong (683-6622)

**Location:** T17S, R7W, Sec 21

**Project Description:**

The proposed action is a commercial thinning sale in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The action would involve approximately 160 acres of 50-58 year old timber. The area is approximately 9 air miles west of Noti Oregon and is located in the Long Tom Watershed.

**Status:** *The environmental assessment public review was completed and 2 comment letters were received. Currently preparing response to comments. A decision is expected late March or April.*

#### <2> Oxbow West

**Contact:** Jean Battle (683-6993)

**Location:** Oxbow West Site, West Eugene Wetlands

**Project Description:**

Proposed management actions include mechanical treatments (mowing, mechanized weed removal, solarization, prescribed burns), enhancement of native vegetation, seeding, planting, hydrologic alteration, fill removal, offsite deposition and monitoring.

**Status:** *Open for scoping. An environmental assessment is expected to be available for public review and comment by early summer.*

#### <3> Fir Butte

**Contact:** Jean Battle (683-6993)

**Location:** Oxbow West Site, West Eugene Wetlands

**Project Description:**

Proposed management actions in the upland prairie portion of the site (13.5 acres) includes a combination of mowing, mechanical, hand removal of woody and herbaceous invasive species and/or burning on  $\leq \frac{1}{2}$  of upland prairie per year, seeding and/or planting native species, limited seed collection, and monitoring projects in upland on an ongoing basis. Management Actions in the wetland prairie portion (4.5 acres) includes a combination of mowing, mechanical, hand removal of woody and herbaceous invasive species or prescribed burning as needed to maintain and enhance native wet prairie species, seeding and/or planting native species, limited seed collection, and future monitoring projects.

**Status:** *Open for scoping. An environmental assessment is expected to be available for public review and comment by early summer.*

## Lake Creek Watershed

### <1>Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).

**Contact:** Saundra Miles (683-6227)

**Location:** 15,000 acres above Horton to the border of the BLM Salem District, includes Hult Reservoir, also known as the Mill Pond or Hult Pond. The SRMA is mostly in Lake Creek Watershed, but with some portions in Long Tom and South Fork Alsea watersheds.

**Status:** *The Resource Area (RA) is developing a recreation plan for this RMP designated area which is integrated with Transportation Management Planning. A Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review and comment in April 2002. If you would like to be on the mailing list contact Saundra Miles.*

### <2>Windy Peak/Hancock Right-A-Way

**Contact:** Eric Meyers (683-6499)

**Location:** T.16S, R.8W, Section 28 & 33

#### **Project Description:**

The proposed project would grant a Right-A-Way to construct approximately 450 feet of road on BLM managed land to access John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. property.

**Status:** *Consultation with the USFWS is ongoing; an Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed and available for public review later this year.*

### <3>Hult Dam Enhancements

**Contact:** Mark Stephen (683-6439)

**Location:** Lake Creek in the NE Quarter Section 26, T15S, R7W, approximately 22 miles northwest of Eugene, Oregon.

#### **Project Description:**

Hult Pond Dam is a homogeneous earth-fill embankment. Hult Pond, historically a log storage pond, was created by this 37 foot high fill dam across Lake Creek in the 1950s. A fish ladder was constructed in 1998 to the southwest of the earthen dam fill to allow for anadromous fish passage above the dam. An earth dam stability assessment and a dam failure inundation study have both been completed.

The proposed project would stabilize potentially liquefiable soils through compaction grouting, slip-line of the existing 48-inch Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP), and establish grades. The work would also include the removal and replacement of the existing valve located at the upstream end of existing 48-inch CMP outfall pipe, placing rip-rap on the downstream face of the dam, and road improvements between Lake Creek Road and the bridge over the spillway.

**Status:** *Public review is complete. Responding to one comment letter. Decision Record to be issued in March or April.*

### <4>Lake Creek Road Improvement

**Contact :** Eric Meyers (683-6499)

**Location:** All activity would occur on the existing road prism. The proposed action could expect to occur in three phases beginning in the summer of FY 2002 (dates and/or phases of work could be altered by budget or planning constraints).

**Project Description:****Phase I:** Road No.15-7-26 (Ferguson Road) / FY 2002

Beginning at the junction with Road No. 15-7-36, this project is approximately 3 miles in length that ends at the Hult Pond Dam. T.15 S., R.6 W., Section 19 T.15 S., R.7 W., Sections 24, 25 and 26.

**Phase II:** Road No. 15-7-35 (Lake Creek)/ FY 2003

Beginning at the end of the county road near the Horton store, this project is approximately 2.7 miles in length that ends at a bridge crossing Lake creek. T.15 S., R.7 W., Sections 23, 26 and 35.

**Phase III:** Road No. 15-7-23 (Prairie Mountain)/ FY 2004

Beginning at the junction with Road No. 15-7-35, this project is approximately 3.63 miles in length that ends at the junction with Road No. 15-7-17. T.15 S., R.7 W., Sections 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23.

The proposed action is to convert 9.35 miles of existing aggregate surfaced road to a paved surface with a Bituminous Surface Treatment. The work would begin by leveling the existing roadbed by grading and placing compacted aggregate. The work would then consist of applying a fast curing liquid asphalt, topped with a layer of fine aggregate and compacted into the asphalt base. The process would be repeated and then topped with an asphalt seal coat. The proposed action would also replace worn culverts and install additional culverts as necessary to facilitate both ditch relief and stream crossings. Replacement culverts would comply with current BLM standards.

**Status:** *Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for review in March or April 2002.*

**<5> Greenleaf Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan**

**Contact:** Leo Poole (683-6289)

**Location:** T16S, R8W, Sections 27 & 35

**Project Description:**

The proposed multi-year plan includes habitat restoration work beginning in July 2001 and continuing with project design and funding in future years. The plan includes restoration activities such as culvert replacements and /or removal and access to/or thru improved culvert passage. Restoration activities include channel structure enhancement such as weirs, jetties, ramp logs, log and boulder placement, gravel placements, riparian restoration, road stabilization, and monitoring.

**Status:** *Open for scoping comments. An environmental assessment is expected to be available for review by April/May.*

**<6> Congdon Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan**

**Contact :** Rob Preece (683-7184)

**Location:** T15S, R7W, Section 29

**Project Description:**

This multi-year restoration plan includes habitat restoration work beginning in July 2001 and continuing with project design and funding in future years. The plan includes restoration activities such as culvert replacements and /or removal and access to/or thru improved culvert passage. Restoration activities include channel structure enhancement such as weirs, jetties, ramp logs, log and boulder placement, gravel placements, riparian restoration, road stabilization, and monitoring.

**Status:** *Open for scoping comments. An environmental assessment is expected to be available for review by April/May.*

## Wolf Creek Watershed

### <1> Lone Wolf Forest Health Treatment

**Contact :** Phil Redlinger (683-6977)

**Location :** T18S, R6W, Section 33

**Project Description:**

This forest health treatment proposes to remove western hemlock infected with dwarf mistletoe and to commercial thin Douglas fir on 76 acres.

**Status:** *Open for Scoping with the EA expected to be available for public review in April.*

## Lower Siuslaw Watershed

### Cannery Dune Oak Street Extension Right-of-Way Application

**Contact:** Dave Schroeder (683-6482)

**Location:** BLM parcel located within the city limits of Florence. T.18S, R.12W, SE1/4 NE1/4, Will. Mer.

**Project Description:**

The City of Florence is proposing the northward extension of Oak Street to the property boundary with Fred Meyers and then east to connect with Highway 101. An application for right of way has been received by the BLM.

**Status:** *Environmental Assessment cancelled. Application for Right of way to be withdrawn by the City.*

## SOUTH VALLEY RESOURCE AREA

### SIUSLAW WATERSHED

#### <1> Douglas Creek Timber Sale

**Contact:** Alan Corbin (683-6792)

**Location:** T20S, R5W, Sec 3

**Project Description:**

This project includes a density management thinning on approximately 100 acres along Douglas Creek, a tributary to the Siuslaw River. The project area lies approximately 3 miles NW of Lorane.

**Status:** *An environmental assessment was originally prepared and released for public review in March 1998, and a decision regarding this action was made in July 1999. However, because of new direction regarding Survey and Manage Species, and the approval of the Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, the project was never implemented. Because of the changes made in the Survey and Manage program, the EA was rewritten to include updated information. The EA was made available for a 30-day review on February 6, 2002. One comment letter was received. A final decision is anticipated in Spring, 2002.*



## **WOLF CREEK WATERSHED**

### **<2>Point-a-Panther Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Alan Corbin (683-6792)

**Location:** T19S, R6W, Sec 13

**Project Description:**

The proposed timber sale lies approximately 5 miles south of Crow in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. Regeneration timber harvest is being considered on approximately 90 acres. This project was originally proposed in 1999, and an environmental assessment was released in July, 1999. Since then, survey and manage surveys have been completed, and a new environmental assessment is being prepared.

**STATUS:** *Scoping is underway. If you have issues or concerns that you would like addressed in the new environmental assessment, please contact the person listed above.*

## **UPPER COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED**

### **<3> Twin Prairie Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Janet Zentner (683-6795)

**Location:** T22S, R3W, Sec 3

**Project Description:** The proposal is to complete a density management thinning on roughly 85 acres. The project area is in the Upper Coast Fork Willamette watershed, about one mile east of Cottage Grove Lake.

**Status:** *An environmental assessment was prepared and made available for a 30-day public review on February 6, 2002. One comment was received. A final decision is anticipated in Spring, 2002.*

### **<4> Hobart Butte Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Janet Zentner (683-6795)

**Location:** T22S, R3W, Sec 31

**Project Description:**

The proposed action is to do a density management thinning on approximately 250 acres. The project area lies just south of London Springs.

**Status:** *An environmental assessment is being prepared. We anticipate that it will be available for public review in late Spring, 2002.*

### **<5> Laurel Curves Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Peter O'Toole (683-6786)

**Location:** T22S, R3W, Sec 23

**Project Description:**

A density management thinning is being considered for this 100-acre project area. It is located in the Matrix Land Use Allocation, approximately 3 miles east of London Springs.

**Status:** *Surveys for red tree voles in the project area are nearly complete. An environmental assessment will be prepared and it is expected to be available for public review in May, 2002. A final decision is anticipated in August, 2002.*

**<6> Jasper Creek Timber Sale**

**Contact:** Peter O'Toole (683-6786)

**Location:** T22S, R3W, Sec 35

**Project Description:**

The proposed action is to complete a density management thinning within a project area of approximately 150 acres located about 4 miles southeast of London Springs in the Matrix Land Use Allocation.

*Status: This project was originally proposed in 1999 in EA No. OR-090-98-24. Since its original release, surveys for Survey and Manage species have been completed and the project has been redesigned. A new environmental assessment is being prepared. If you have issues or concerns that you would like addressed in the new environmental assessment, please contact the person listed above. We anticipate that the EA will be available for public review in Summer, 2002. A final decision is anticipated in early Fall, 2002.*

**LOWER COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED**

**<7> Valley Foothills Restoration Demonstration Site EA**

**Contact:** Richard Hardt (683-6690)

**Location:** T19S, R4W, Sec 23

**Project Description:**

The proposed project is intended to restore oak and oak-conifer forests that were historically typical of the Willamette Valley foothill ecosystem, and to provide a site to demonstrate to the public the implementation and results of such restoration techniques. The proposed project area includes three stands. Two stands are being considered for restoration treatments: an approximately 10-year old stand that was planted following timber harvest and an approximately 35-year old Douglas-fir stand that regenerated naturally following timber harvest. The third stand – an older – is intended for inventory and comparison only and is not proposed for any treatment.

*Status: The 30-day public comment period ended on January 25, 2002. One comment letter was received. Those comments are being considered and a final decision is expected in spring 2002.*

**LOWER ROW CREEK WATERSHED**

**<8> South Lane Television, Inc. Translator Upgrade**

**Contact:** Rick Colvin (683-6659)

**Location:** T21S, R1W, Sec 29

**Project Description:**

South Lane Television, Inc. owns and operates a television translator (repeater) on Hawley Butte under a communication site right-of-way issued by BLM. They have requested authorization to upgrade their facilities by replacing the existing tower with one that is 160 feet in height. They have also requested authorization to augment the existing propane-fired thermoelectric power system with solar/battery power.

*Status: An EA was completed and made available for a 30-day public review on February 6, 2002. One comment was received. A final decision is expected in late Spring, 2002.*